



St. Apkar Armenian Church Anniversary

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

PAH-REV

Your Eminence, Honorable Consul General, Reverend Father, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen ...

It's an honor for me to join you in celebrating so many auspicious occasions for St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian-American community of Arizona.

The Armenian Church has served as a pillar of the Armenian people wherever they have resided.

All of you who have gathered this evening and have supported this wonderful achievement are a testament and embody the spirit of being Arizonans.

Together, you built this beautiful sanctuary and community center to preserve your Christian faith and rich heritage -- not only enriching your community but our state.

As we stand here in the Melikian Hall, I applaud Greg and Emma, for their vision in supporting not only this project but also numerous other philanthropic projects throughout Arizona.

The state of Arizona is fortunate to have many diverse ethnic and religious communities living and working in harmony.

The Armenian-American community has formed an integral piece of our American quilt and began to call Arizona home since the 1950s -- contributing to the Grand Canyon State's development in business, education, and the arts.

I congratulate the Armenian people on nineteen years of independence and the blessing of a democratic nation of their own.

Armenia is an ancient civilization with a long history of triumph over adversity.

The courage and resilient spirit of the Armenian people never wavered.

As Armenian-American author William Saroyan said, "Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if they will not live again."

Like a phoenix rising, the Armenian people and culture are alive and thriving in our great state.

This spiritual and cultural center is a beacon of enrichment that shines upon us as a community, a state, and a nation.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this celebration.

God bless you and your families, and God bless St. Apkarmayr Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian-American community of Arizona.

Thank you.